

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE 26A

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION  
7 October 1977

# CIA Now Has Watchdogs, Chief Says

By JIM MERRINER  
Constitution Political Editor

If the Central Intelligence Agency wanted to subvert a foreign government today it would have to get the president's approval and then notify no fewer than eight congressional committees, CIA Director Stansfield Turner said in Atlanta Thursday.

Speaking to the Atlanta City Forum, Turner generally approved of newly created public watchdogs over CIA activities as part of "making a match between morality and the necessary secrecy of an intelligence operation."

At the same time, Turner declared that secret spy operations are still needed and warned that leaks of CIA secrets have caused "nervousness" among foreign intelligence contacts.

Turner also said, in response to a question, that widespread attacks on alleged CIA abuses in recent years have undermined his agency's morale.

"Suddenly you come home one day and your children say, 'Gee, are you really working at the Central Intelligence Agency, Dad, that terrible place? It hurts, and it has hurt,'" Turner said.

But the CIA is "now turning the corner" on the morale problem and on the "growing (public) recognition . . . that we must have a good Central Intelligence Agency," he said.

An admiral who was a classmate of Jimmy Carter's at the Naval Academy, Turner said President Carter has ordered the CIA to take no part "in an assassination of anybody, anyplace."

One of Carter's campaign promises was to forbid such past CIA activities as plots to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro or to overthrow an elected Marxist leader in Chile.

"We do very little of this today," Turner said, referring to "covert action in the attempt to influence events in another country without attribution."

But clandestine intelligence-gathering, as opposed to "trying to influence events somewhere," is still "a very essential arrow in our quiver," he said.

Cloak-and-dagger spying "is a tool that has to be used sparingly" but is still necessary even "with all the new wonderful, technical means available to us today" such as spy satellites, he said.

Clandestine spying "is almost exclusively an overseas operation" and American citizens are protected from CIA abuses by laws, presidential directives and agency regulations, he said.

He said he is "very determined to insure that the mistakes, or the perception of mistakes, in the past will not reoccur."

Turner later termed the attacks on

the CIA an "excess of criticism . . . (which) came about because of a lack of understanding of what we do and how we do it."

He said the agency prohibits "contractual relations" to buy information from news reporters, clergy or missionaries.

The CIA is "declassifying all that we can declassify" while "tightening the noose" on genuine secrets, he said.

"We are persuaded," Turner said, "that the intelligence apparatus of our country cannot serve that country well unless it understands and is in tune with the attitudes, the values, the morals, the ethics of the people of this country."

The additional congressional supervision of the CIA imposed in the last two years is a needed "surrogate process for public oversight," he said, but there are "risks" involved.

The risks are "intelligence by timidity" — taking information that is a easiest to get, rather than most crucial — and further leaks of secret data, he said.

Turner, former president of the Naval War College and commander in chief of Allied Forces Southern Europe, was the kickoff speaker for the Atlanta City Forum Inc., a group formed recently "to attract national newsmakers once a month to downtown Atlanta."

continued  
(picture on back)